

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 109

By DuBois

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Mr. and Mrs. Carl Gardner upon their having been recently honored with the Maury Alliance's Century Farm of the Year Award.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should salute those estimable families who, through their professional and personal endeavors, serve as a cornerstone to their respective communities and as a credit to this State; and

WHEREAS, one such noteworthy family is that of Mr. and Mrs. Carl Gardner of Maury County, who were recently awarded the Maury Alliance's Century Farm of the Year Award; and

WHEREAS, the Century Farm Program was established to recognize the dedication and contributions of families who have retained ownership of the same farm for over a century, thus persevering through succeeding generations, as they cope with wars, floods, droughts, economic crises, and other obstacles presented by way of natural and human intervention; and

WHEREAS, Jacob Gray Gardner bought 168 acres in the Fly Community of Maury County in the year 1900. After Jacob Gray Gardner's and his wife Willie Gardner's deaths, their three children, Eugene, Ethel, and Everett, divided the farm into three tracts. Everett inherited the tract that fronts the road and eventually purchased his sister's part of the farm in 1951; and

WHEREAS, Carl's father, Everett, was a farmer, a carpenter, and a traveling sheep shearer. Along with building the house where Carl currently lives, the father and son duo started a successful farming operation together that has lasted the tests of time. They established a dairy business in the late 1930s or early 1940s, along with raising hogs and tobacco. Carl bought the old home tract in 1974, four years before his father's death and fourteen years prior to his mother's death; and

WHEREAS, born on the family farm in 1925, and besides having served in the United States Army in 1945 and having worked for Union Carbide for three weeks, Carl Gardner has never been far away from his farm, except to court his sweetheart, Louise, who became his loving wife; and

WHEREAS, the couple has been blessed with five children: Jimmy, a pastor; Dennis, a dentist; Jerry, a farmer; Gayle, a cafeteria manager; and Randy, who works at Pioneer Manufacturing. Of their eleven grandchildren, five are in college, one is a pharmacist, one works at Farm Bureau, and four are students at Santa Fe School; and

WHEREAS, Carl and Louise's son, Jerry, joined the family's farming operation in 1978, Carl and Jerry moved from a Grade B Dairy business to a Grade A Dairy in 1985 and currently own a herd of 115 cows, in addition to 110 heifers and young stock; and

WHEREAS, Carl and Louise Gardner epitomize the spirit and commitment that are characteristic of true Tennesseans; and

WHEREAS, the Gardners evince their faith in God as members of the Goshen Methodist Church, where they are known as "The Singing Gardner Family" for their immense musical talent as displayed in their membership in The Goshenaires, In Christ, and The Family Friends Choir; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly finds it appropriate to pause in its deliberations to acknowledge and applaud Carl and Louise Gardner for their dedication to farming and to the

importance of the family farm in our society, to their community, and the State of Tennessee;
now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED
THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE
CONCURRING, That we hereby honor and commend Carl and Louise Gardner upon winning
The Century Farm of the Year Award, presented by the Maury Alliance, in honor of the
Gardners' contributions to the agribusiness industry in Maury County, as we extend to them our
best wishes for every future success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared
for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.